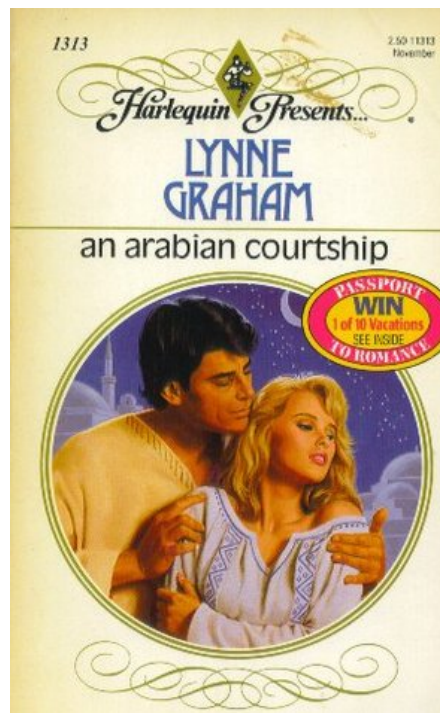




An Arabian Courtship

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Family loyalty and the knowledge that her love for Chris would never be returned led Polly to accept marriage to Prince Raschid, heir to a desert kingdom.

The problems she thought she'd face were practical ones--such as how she'd adjust to life in a very different culture.

What a shock it was to discover that the handsome autocratic man she'd married was a complex and wonderful companion--and that her emotions were certainly involved!

An Arabian Courtship Details

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From Reader Review An Arabian Courtship for online ebook

Jacqueline says

A fun LG. The heroine was a bit of a ninny who fought back all the time when I think a more rational woman would have responded differently. But then she was only 20. So she realistically acted like a dopey teenager. But sometimes that would go down better with me if I thought that was seriously what the author was aiming for. Did LG sit down and say 'this heroine is only barely 20 so she is going to act like a stupid teenager and then I will have her grow and learn.' Or did she just try to write a feisty character who came over as a bit of an idiot? Hmmm. Still I like LG so I forgive a lot. Very over the top and dramatic. So that's all good.

Chitra *CJ* says

"An Arabian Courtship" is the story of Polly and Raschid.

Polly is the oldest of her siblings, and secretly in love with her neighbor Chris- who only thinks of her as a sibling. Heartbroken, she is shocked when her father arranges her wedding with Prince Raschid, in order to fulfill an old promise with the latter's father.

Whisked away to his desert kingdom, the customs are a shock to Polly, so is the sudden intense attraction to her husband- something she hadn't ever felt for Chris. But as they engage in a battle of wills and passion, the sexual chemistry is too strong to deny and soon Polly finds herself falling for her brooding husband.

So for some reason I was picking up all the wrong LG's recently, something which led me to take a break from her books due to disappointment. However, this oldie was a pleasant surprise.

- The heroine had a backbone
- The hero wasn't overly mean
- Consent was respected
- Lovemaking was hot
- Drama wasn't stretched out
- Hero didn't have to be checked for herpes
- Jealousy wasn't insane
- Resolution was sweet

I liked the way their emotions were expressed on the page, and we definitely saw the couple falling in love- the angst was minimal but a warm welcome. Banter was enjoyable.

Safe
3.75/5

Booked says

description

Polly didn't expect to be happy

Family loyalty and the knowledge that her love for Chris would never be returned led Polly to accept marriage to Prince Raschid, heir to a desert kingdom.

The problems she thought she'd face were practical ones--such as how she'd adjust to life in a very different culture.

What a shock it was to discover that the handsome autocratic man she'd married was a complex and wonderful companion--and that her emotions were certainly involved!

Leona says

Geez ...this is one unpalatable book. There really isn't anything redeeming about either the Hero or the heroine.

He is a brutal nasty character, making it clear that she is only there for his physical needs. She falls head over heels for someone that constantly treats her like trash.

The parents force her to marry him to save them from a horrible financial situation...and she decides it's okay to sell herself because the man she really loves only sees her as a friend.

She is immature and spouts off nonsense for most of the book...and in typical LG fashion, says one thing but does another.

Go figure.

Roub says

this was a re-read for me. it was not as much fun as i found it last year (march 2014). it's a 3 star for me this time around, but i won't change my first rating. i found polly very childish and she annoyed me like hell ! too aggressive for my tastes! she knew she was going through an arranged marriage and yet was reluctant from the word go. noone forced her. she made her choice and i found it abhorrent dat she did not want to lie in the bed she made. she threw lots of tantrums and i dunt see how rachid fell for her apart from her obvious beauty.

lily waheed says

I want Raschid! !

Chantal ♥? says

AMAZING AND PASSIONATE

This was my first Sheikh story and boy did I enjoy it.

I loved every single minute of it even the bad parts and when he discovers her kissing her secret crush!!!!

Omg my feels (as my teenage daughter would say).

This is one story that has loads of drama, deserts, and hot sexy scenes with an awesome confused hero who is just trying to protect himself from getting hurt again.

How could that bitch of a first wife do that to him?

He was such a great guy and I am so glad they have each other. I understood why everything happened at the end.

I understood why he was so cold, he was trying to keep his distance from her in order to protect her.

He honestly thought that because he could not have kids, their marriage would end.

I was just so upset!

Yes, a lot of guys still mistakenly think that virility is linked to his fertility.

So sad but still true today.

This book was sweet and how she handled his confession was epic.

She just took it all in her stride.

After all there are other ways to have kids you know!

Just saying!

However, I was pleased that he was wrong but how you could you have believed his bitch first wife is beyond me.

I mean, come on, his did not even bother to check out the facts.

Even his father called him an idiot for not doing so!!!

I love how he come back with the epic grovel scene that she cut short because she is just so understanding and sweet!

Ahhhhhhmazing....

boogenhagen says

Re An Arabian Courtship - Lynne Graham is back with her second foray into HPlandia, a sheikhy lurve story that starts with an arranged marriage. The h is a nice, sheltered English librarian whose family's reduced financial circumstances force her to agree to marry the tall, dark and handsome son of a desert king. The h's father supposedly once saved the life of the king while he was in the diplomatic corps and in gratitude for the gesture, the desert king promised that his heir would wed the father's first born daughter.

The h's father claims he only wanted a loan to tide him over financially - no mention of how he wouldn't be able to repay it,- but since the king decided that the h was suitable and he wanted his widowed son married again, the h's father felt forced to agree to the union. Then he and his wife proceed to guilt the h into acceptance, mainly because the h worries about what will happen to her younger siblings if she doesn't.

The book opens with the h meeting the H for the first time and he epitomizes every stereotype of the Middle East by explaining that the h will never be allowed to go out without covering, he will only use her as a convenience in bed and she will not be associating with other people. Essentially the H is telling her she will be living in purdah if she marries him. The h is not overjoyed at this news, she thinks she is in love with the neighbor's son, but since he doesn't see her as anything other than a childhood friend and the financial circumstances are desperate, the h agrees to the H's terms and the marriage is set up.

There is a church wedding in England, and the h gets a little tipsy on champagne at the thought of the new life she has to endure. The h's parents are pretty willfully oblivious, they now have a ton of money the H's father paid and don't seem to mind that they essentially sold their daughter to an unknown quantity.

(This is LG's first example of the really badly behaving parents of the h she will include in a lot of future books, in fact LG throws a lot future tropes into this one, which makes this one a bit muddled as she doesn't follow through on them very well.)

Anyhows, we are off to the H's desert kingdom and he is not pleased that he is getting a gold digger for a wife, especially when the h starts shouting at him and has a total meltdown on the plane. We arrive at the H's home and the H makes her cover up from head to toes to bring her to his palace and meet with his father. The H's father, currently the king, seems to be amused at the H's marriage, but he also lets the h know that he is happy that she is there.

We find out from the H's sister, who is there to help the h prepare for the second wedding ceremony, when she spitefully tells the h that the H only loved his first wife and that the H has a blonde French mistress and apparently the king thinks that blondes are interchangeable. The H has indicated that he will have no problems taking the h to bed, so the h is now left to feel like a tart and worry about the great love the H has for his first wife to boot.

Tho the H's sister is sorry for her insinuations, and later retracts the blonde French Mistress accusation, the h is not looking forward to this second wedding with any sort of calm at all. She makes it through the ceremony and the women's meal after, but when the big bedding scene arrives, the h is seriously ill with flu and passes out.

We don't get any sponging scenes, but as soon as she recovers, the H is ready to stake his manly claim and the h loses herself in the throws of passion. She does her best to ignore him during the day and then complains to herself that he makes her feel like a prostitute at night. One good thing is the H recognizes that she herself did not profit from the money his father paid to marry her, he now realizes that she was essentially sold by her family and so he tries to be a bit nicer.

The h is torn between resentment at her situation, realizing that she never loved the neighbor's son after all and a certain unqualified overwhelming lust for the H that she just can't shake. Then we find out that the H is sterile, his first wife desperately wanted a child and so he had tests and the H is pretty much firing blanks.

The h now has to torment herself with the H still being majorly in love with his first wife who died, when everyone around her is pretty clear that the woman made everyone, including the H miserable. There is also drama between the H's brother and his pregnant wife, but the h is remarkably uninvolved in the life going on around her, she just seems to hang about her palace rooms while the H is away and then ignores him when he comes back.

Then her father has a heart attack and the h and H travel back to England. The h becomes totally enamored of the H, cause he is so helpful during the crisis. When the H has to leave because one of his oil tankers gets blown up, the h has a huge mopey moment and gets waylaid by the neighbor, who plants a big kiss on her and the H just happens to arrive in time to see it. The h is also having problems with clothes fitting properly and so we soon suspect that the h is preggers, but the h herself has no clue. The H renounces her after the neighbor's sneak attack kiss but the h is in love and determined to chase after him, even tho he told her he was divorcing her and not to return to his country.

The h goes anyway and winds up in the desert with the H. They fight and she runs off into a dry stream bed and almost drowns, but LG gives the us the archetypal Desert Sheikh Sweeping Down on His Horse to Carry the h Off scene, complete with hunting hounds to track her down. The h announces that she loves the H and he decides to get her out of the desert caravan they are traveling with.

The H takes her to a remote palace where his French grandmother lived when she renounced the H's grandfather and he took a second wife. There is a very old maid servant there who seems to think the H and h

are actually the H's grandparents and that night she sneaks the h into the H's rooms and the h starts to wonder just what the ostensibly estranged grandparents got up to while they lived apart.

We then find out that the h's father never really 'saved' the H's father, but the king wanted to avoid an international incident at the time, so he jokingly promised the H's hand in marriage and then decided years later that it was time the H got married again, and so he set the marriage up.

The H winds up ravishing her, to the h's great delight and things are going swimmingly with the H's brother and sister in law showing up for Christmas. Then the h finds out she is preggers. The H flips out and denounces the h as a cheating hussy. He storms off and the h is left at her palace all alone.

The H's brother shows up and claims that the French mistress was actually his and his brother covered for him cause he used the H's name to rent his Parisienne love nest. He tells the h that the H's first wife committed suicide and was mentally disturbed, (another favorite LG trope,) and the h is horrified. She knows the H will be back eventually, cause the doctor will tell him how far preggers she actually is and it was well before they went back to England.

The H does return and he brings the h a rose and a little pink teddy bear, asking the h to forgive him. Then he drops the bombshell that his first wife, who wound up in a mental hospital until her father dragged her back to the H and then she fell down some stairs and died in the H's arms, lied about him being sterile and also explains that his father laughed and told him he was TSTL when he confessed to being taken aback by the h's pregnancy. (Which just goes to prove rule #12, an H will believe anyone about sterility, even whacked out ladies with mental illnesses and never either check for themselves or get a second opinion.)

The H is now relieved of all the tormented guilt he carried for years and can unrestrainedly avow true love to the h, tho he is very surprised by how fast his little lurve mojo motilators motillated to the target when the h announces her due date. The h is delirious with joy that the H loves her back and never really loved his first wife at all, cause she was neurotic, and they resolve to re-enact the midnight sneak into his bedroom scene for the big HEA.

This one is okay and you can see a lot of the embryo plot tropes LG will use to great effect in her later writings. LG is known for her forced marriages, pregger h's, horrible h parents, mentally unstable first wives and H's that start off mean but come around to besotted swains by the end. Unfortunately the whole thing was a surface scattering of tropes and a lot of focus on the resentment and mopeyness of the h.

Subplots aren't really explored and the h doesn't make a lot of effort to really do anything but be acted upon for most of the book. She is really immature and lackluster for most of the story and can't seem to do anything other than complain to herself about her horrible situation - quite unlike most LG h's, who may not succeed at a lot of things but they do try at least.

The big drawback of this one is that neither the H or the h is developed as characters very well. The h doesn't seem to do anything but ruminate and wait around for the H, who eventually announces that the h will be permanently attached to his hip cause he can't stand to be without her- tho I can't quite figure out why.

There is even the malicious H relative subplot, but it peters out pretty quickly and the h's utter lack of involvement with what is going on around her - to the extent that she knows nothing of life in the society in which she will now live- is a marked difference from latter LG writings where her h's are more than just a mopey, pining for the H bed partner that kinda makes you wonder why you took this trip to HPlandia to begin with.

Cheesecake says

I actually read this over 20 years ago, so I'm not going to write a review. But I just want to say this was one of the sweetest apology/grovels ever!

Not the best book over all and no epilogue, but sweet just for the ending.

Simona says

loved both MCs. only wish LG had written better love scenes as the couple deserved them.

RebeccaL says

I liked this story very much. I am glad to see a H that wasn't mean. Yes, he may have his moments of anger but most of the time he is logical. Comparatively I feel sometimes the heroine actions and respond are a bit childish. They both entered this marriage of convenience for their own reason but the hero did approach it with much more tolerance and sense while I can't help to feel the heroine is less considerate. She made her decision to marry into a loveless marriage and the hero did ensure she know what she can expect in the first place which makes her accusation of the hero in the initial stage of marriage a bit unfair.

However, I appreciate the story that both H and h have their flaws and it showed that we are all human and no one is perfect. They are likeable characters. The only complaint is I don't feel they talk to each other enough to understand why they truly loves each other. But I still found this story enjoyable.

Carol Storm says

This one is Lynne Graham's best -- along with THE CORSICAN GAMBIT by Sandra Marton, it is the best Harlequin Presents I have ever read!

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I suppose I have read this, but I don't remember. That's fine, because I liked experiencing it without any preconceived notions. I liked this quite a bit. Polly is young, but she's doesn't act addle-brained as some of Graham's more recent heroines. Don't get me wrong, I love LG's books, but sometimes I wish she didn't seem to make them so silly (especially over the hero because he's so good-looking). Polly in a difficult situation, having essentially been sold into marriage by her greedy father (who has gotten his family into dire financial straits, with four younger children and a wife of delicate constitution). Polly believes she has no chance for love, since her true love doesn't see her as anything but a friend. When she meets her future husband, Raschid, she might be impressed by his good looks, but his personality leaves a lot to ask for. Plus, he makes it seem like she'll be living in a modern version of purdah. But she can't really say no. Polly is nervous and drinks a bit too much at the wedding, so she doesn't make the best example of herself at the wedding. So far their marriage is off to a very bad start. It's pretty certain that Polly won't have to worry about losing her heart to her husband. Or so it seems.

I will always like arranged marriage and marriage of convenience books. It's a great way to put two people into very close proximity and where they are forced to build a relationship without any expectations of insta-love or sex. Raschid was far from likable at first, but he wasn't trying to be. It turns out that he's a very good man. Deeply honorable and with a core of kindness that over time Polly gets a chance to see. Like many of Graham's heroines, Raschid doesn't know what hits him. His silly English bride who he at first thinks the worst of, steals his heart in a big way, and with him determined never to fall in love. His first marriage, also arranged, went very badly, and he still has some very deep wounds that haven't healed. Polly is haunted by the spectre of his so-called perfect first wife (traditional and culturally appropriate to Raschid), and she thinks that Raschid's rejection is out of his enduring love for his wife. I felt sympathetic to Polly and for her in this tough situation. I couldn't imagine how tough it was to have so much of a change in culture she was experiencing, plus with a husband who can't seem to stand her. Over time, her viewpoint shows that things aren't as black and white.

I liked that this was a bit more serious than some of her newer books, with a more mature-seeming hero who isn't a womanizer or playboy. At first, I didn't like the way he was treating Polly, but there was a good explanation for that. I think it's more than evident before the book ends how much he loves Polly. I almost always like Lynne Graham's heroines, and I did like Polly quite a bit.

It's a good one worth tracking down for Lynne Graham fans.

StMargarets says

Lynne Graham is always worth reading and this story is no exception, even though it's a "desert" story - my least favorite. Heroine is forced to marry prince hero because her father saved the life of hero's father years before and the "payment" is marriage between the families. The "debt" is only brought up now because the heroine's family needs money and the hero's father thinks his son should marry again after the disaster that was his first marriage.

Hero is upfront about the kind of life heroine would live - restricted and without love on his part. Heroine is so busy being a martyr, despairing her old crush will never love her, and noticing how hot the hero is that she doesn't take in his words. They marry in a Christian church (?) and off to the palace in the desert we go! They marry again in a desert ceremony, but heroine takes ill and the hero tenderly cares for her.

(view spoiler)

I suppose this would be a higher rating if I hadn't read it all before. (says jaded reader). If you only read a harley or two a year (impossible!) then this plot might seem new and fresh and twisty.

sbf20112011 says

Maybe I just wasn't in the mood, but this one didn't grab me even though it had some elements I normally enjoy (heroine illness, can't-have babies-angst that gets resolved). Though on the other hand I tend to dislike Arabian romances, but make exceptions for my favorite authors like LG. The Arabian context wasn't too bad in this one but it puts a damper on the HEA for me knowing that for the rest of her life she's going to have to go out in public wearing a burka. Arabian setting aside, I think one problem with this one was that it almost

seemed like the H/h didn't spend enough time together, and I would have preferred seeing more signs of the hero's feelings earlier on. But 3.5 stars because it was a decent story, and I have the sense that in a different mood I might have enjoyed it more.
